REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim amendments/Status

In this response, the claims have been reviewed and amended to more clearly set forth the subject matter for which patent protection is sought and to at least overcome the objections raised in paragraph 5 of this Office Action.

Claims 1 and 3-10 remain pending in the application.

Rejections under 35 USC § 102

The rejection of claims 1, 3-4 and 7 under 35 USC 102(a) as being anticipated by Rhapsody-4.1 (art of record, "Essential Rhapsody in C++" version 4.1, published January 1, 2003), are respectfully traversed. The traverse offered in the after final response dated Jan. 6, 2010, is reiterated and the following additional comments are advanced.

Rhapsody-4.1 nowhere mentions the words "requirements", "constraint" and "traceability." Disclosure and anticipation of these features is therefore deemed impossible.

Rhapsody-4.1 does not show in the "add new" pop-up window any line called "constraint" : it shows only (slide E1-10) the lines "Attribute", "Operation", "Triggered operation", "Event reception", "Constructor" and "Destructor", whereas, the Applicants do use the line "Constraint" in this pop-up window (see our figure 2), therefore, it is obvious that this reference does not forecast to disclose any requirement and even less any traceability feature.

The "Features" found by the Examiner in pages E1-11 and E1-12 are mere features of the model: the right window of page E1-11 clearly shows that these features do not comprise anything that could be used for traceability, the more as the "add new" option is not called for opening this right window.

Rejections under 35 USC § 103(a)

The rejection of claims 5-6 and 8-10 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rhapsody-4.1 in view of Kobryn (art of record, "Visual Requirements-Driven Development with UML 2.0"), is respectfully traversed.

The applicant has already discussed Kobryn in the after final response dated Jan. 6, 2010. That is to say, it was advanced that Kobryn discloses basics relating to the use of the DOORS tool but does not suggest any solution for performing the traceability in the way disclosed in the instant specification and claimed in amended claim 1. In addition thereto, the Applicant points out that, since Rhapsody - 4.1 does not mention or suggest any requirement, and as such it is submitted that it would be untenable to consider a combination of these references.

Conclusion

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application should be in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.
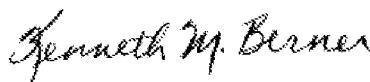
Early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is courteously solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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